

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-15 are now in the application. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Claim 15 has been added.

In the first paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the Examiner stated that Figs. 1a, 1b, and 3a should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. As noted above in the "Drawing Amendments" section, Figs. 1a, 1b, and 3a have been labeled "Prior Art".

In the third paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 13 and 14 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that in the preamble of claim 13 "the threaded" lacks antecedent basis. The Examiner stated that the phrase "said thread windings" recited at line 13 lacks antecedent basis. Claim 13 has been amended so as to facilitate prosecution of the application. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 13 and 14 is believed to have been overcome.

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Drawing Amendments

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1a, 1b, and 3a. These sheets which includes Figs. 1a, 1b, and 3a, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1a, 1b, and 3a. Figs. 1a, 1b, and 3a, are now designated as "Prior Art"

Please approve the drawing changes that are marked in red on the accompanying "Annotated Sheets Showing Changes" of Figs. 1a, 1b, and 3a. Formal "Replacement Sheets" of amended Figs. 1a, 1b, and 3a are also enclosed.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic or clarificatory reasons. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In the last paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-14 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Burwell (U.S. Patent No. 4,679,206) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found in Figs. 2 and 3b and page 17 lines 17-18 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 13 call for, *inter alia*:

the crests of one of the parts abut against the wedge ramps at the root of the other one of the parts for defining a gap between the flanks of the thread windings of the internal and external threads.

The Burwell reference discloses that Fig. 3 was prior art at the time of his invention. Burwell discloses that Fig. 6 is the preferred embodiment of his invention. Burwell discloses that the object of his invention is to reduce the possibility of thread breakage during joining without adversely affecting joint strength or joint conductivity.

The Examiner's comments on page 2 of the Office action that Burwell discloses "... at least one of the internal and external threads is inherently formed with a wedge ramp (or thread flanks) 19b at the root 18...and when the parts are screwed into one another, the crests 20 of one part abut with the wedge ramps 19b at the root of the other part (as clearly shown in Fig. 3)", are not accurate.

Burwell does not disclose any wedge ramps as recited in the claims of the instant application. Burwell discloses that the reference numeral "19b" is a thread flank. The thread flanks (19a and 19b) of Burwell are not wedge ramps as recited in the instant application. Furthermore, Burwell discloses thread

troughs at the root of the threads and not a wedge ramp.
Burwell discloses nipple thread forms and socket thread forms, which when screwed together will only have flank-to-flank contact. Burwell does not disclose that the crests rest on separate wedge ramps for defining a gap between the flanks.

The reference does not show the crests of one of the parts abut against the wedge ramps at the root of the other one of the parts for defining a gap between the flanks of the thread windings of the internal and external threads, as recited in claims 1 and 13 of the instant application. The Burwell reference discloses thread forms that have flank-to-flank contact when screwed together. Burwell does not disclose that the crests rest on separate wedge ramps for defining a gap between the flanks. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which the crests of one of the parts abut against the wedge ramps at the root of the other one of the parts for defining a gap between the flanks of the thread windings of the internal and external threads.

Since claims 1 and 13 are believed to be allowable over Burwell, dependent claims 2-12 and 14-15 are believed to be allowable over Burwell as well.

In the second paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, claims 1-7 and 12-14 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Burwell (U.S. Patent No. 4,159,184) (hereinafter " '184") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The '184 reference discloses a friable thread electrode joint. The '184 reference discloses providing clearances between the long flanks of the threads on the nipple and those in both sockets.

The '184 reference does not show the crests of one of the parts abut against the wedge ramps at the root of the other one of the parts for defining a gap between the flanks of the thread windings of the internal and external threads, as recited in claims 1 and 13 of the instant application. The '184 reference discloses providing clearances between the long flanks of the threads on the nipple and those in both sockets. The '184 reference does not disclose that the crests rest on separate wedge ramps for defining a gap between the flanks. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which the crests of one of the parts abut against the wedge ramps at the root of the other one of the parts for defining a gap between the flanks of the thread windings of the internal and external threads.

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Since claims 1 and 13 are believed to be allowable over the '184 reference, dependent claims 2-7, 12, and 14-15 are believed to be allowable over the '184 reference as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 13. Claims 1 and 13 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 13, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 are solicited.

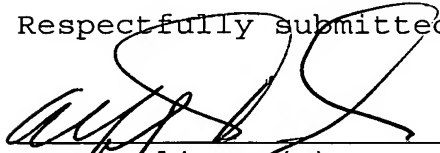
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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Fig. 1a
PRIOR ART

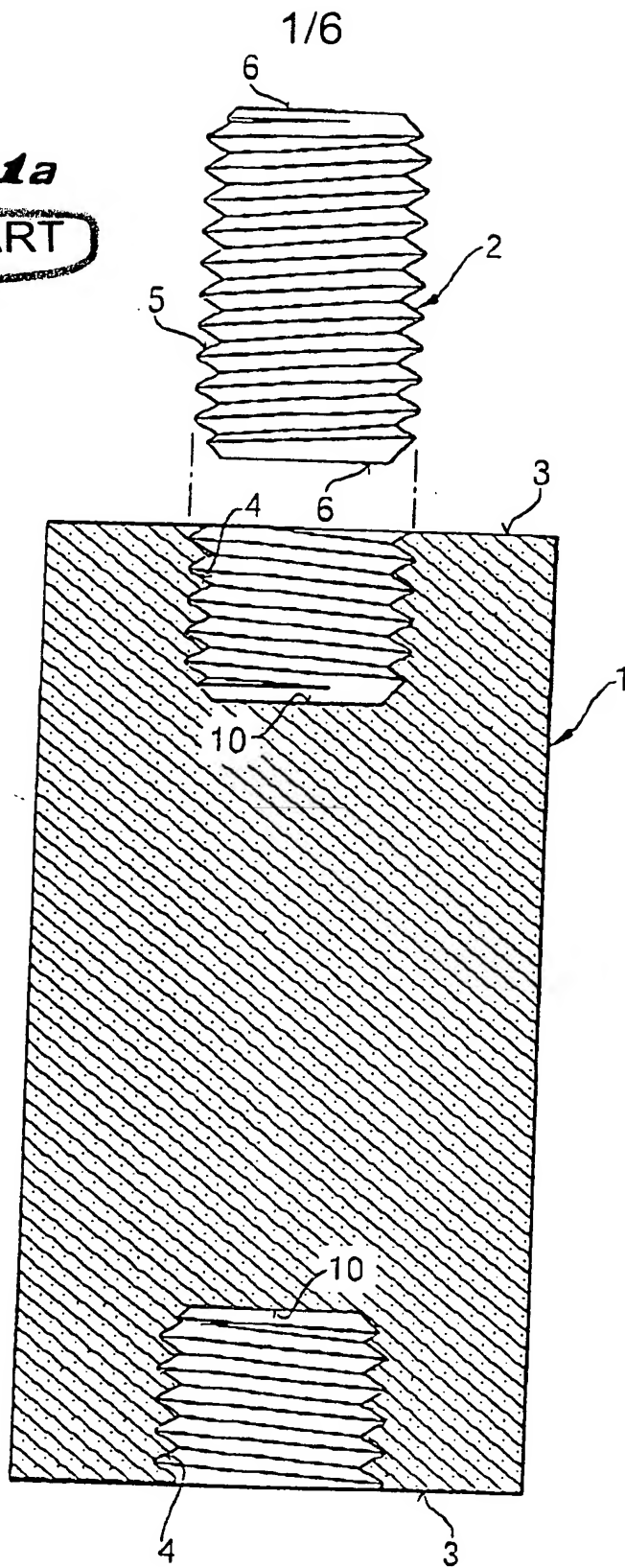
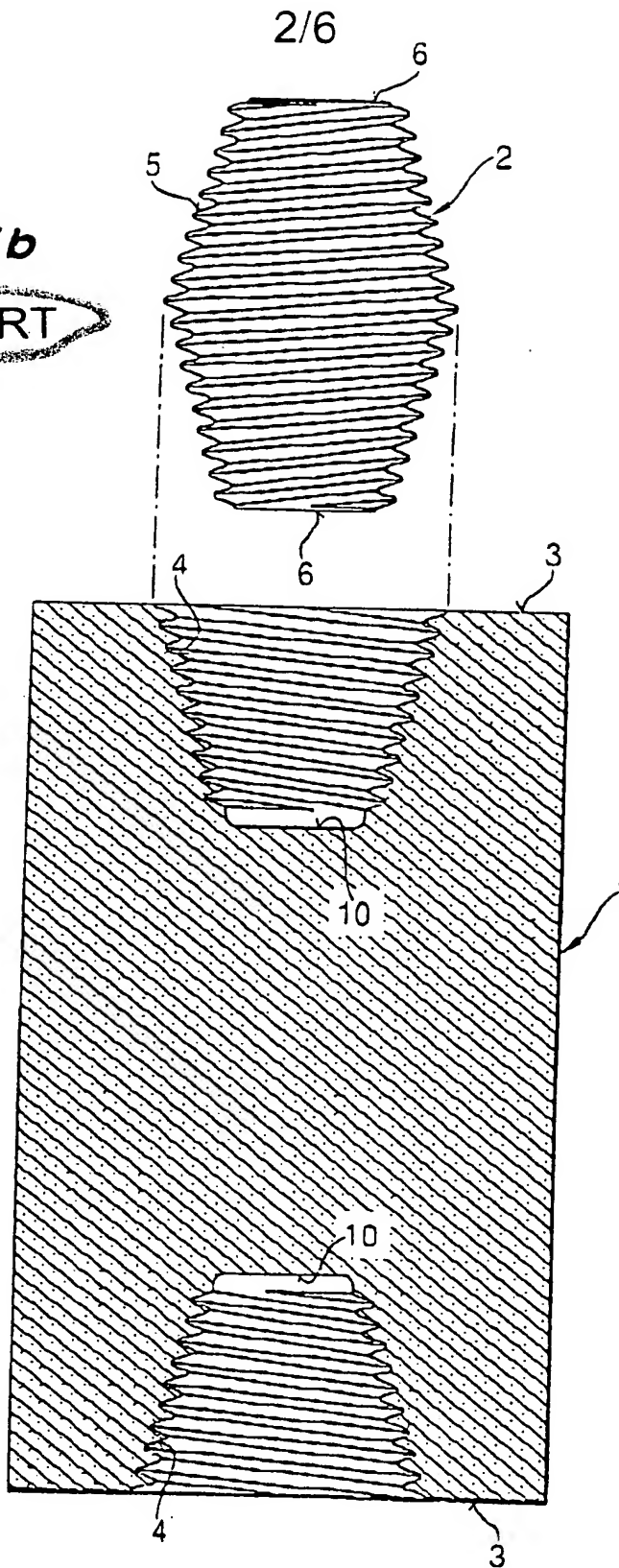


Fig. 1b

PRIOR ART



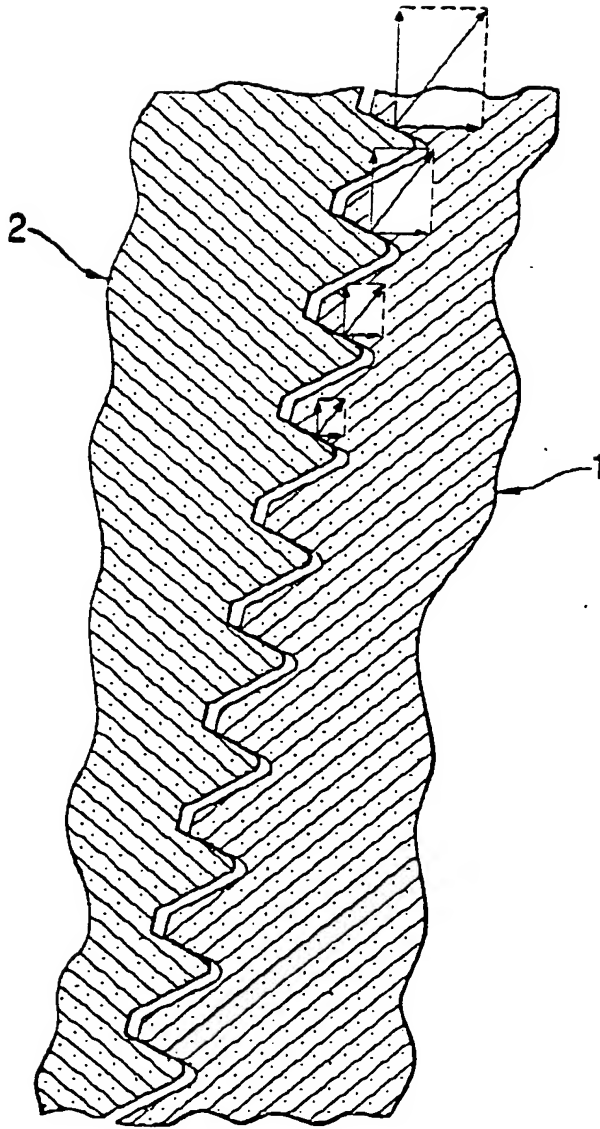


Fig. 3a

PRIOR ART

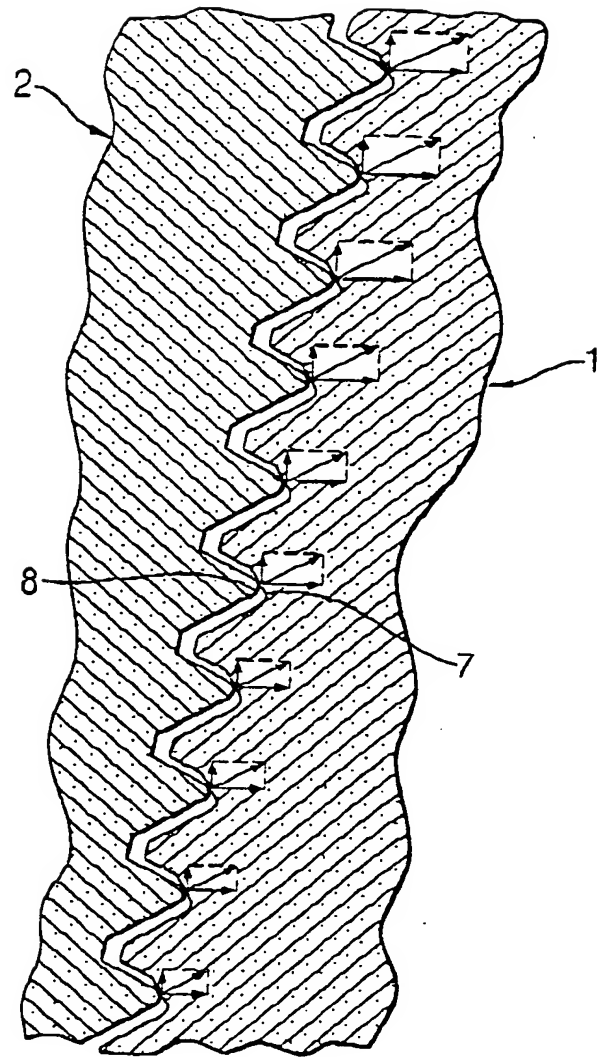


Fig. 3b